

MICROFILMED

DEC 30 1966

DOC. MICRO. SER.

KODAMA Yoshio

5P

26 Oct 1955

Kodama's career is as follows: Born February 18, 1911 in Yasuki, Fukushima prefecture of a poor family though considered to be of Samurai class; received primary education in Seoul, Korea, and Japan, and attended night schools in Korea and Tokyo while working in factories, 1920-1926; is widely read in the social sciences, and is greatly influenced by leading Japanese nationalist theorists such as OKAWA Shumei, KASAKI Ryomei, and IMAIZUMI Teisuke; joined AKAO Bin's Kenkoku-kai (National Construction Society), anti-communist, Pan-Asiatic group which was the forerunner to AKAO's post-World War II Dai Nippon Aikoku-to (Great Japan Patriotic Party); imprisoned for petitioning the Emperor in person for unemployment relief and against the formation of a leftist party, 1929-1930; became a leading member of the Kyushin Aikoku Rodosha So-Remmei (Radical Patriotic Laborers Federation), an amalgamation of TSUKUI Tatsuo's rightist Kyushin Aikoku-to (Radical Patriotic Party) and labor elements formerly in the Kenkoku-kai, and the Zen Nippon Aikoku-sha Kyodo Toso Kyogikai (All Japan Patriots Struggle Council), an attempted merger by OKAWA Shumei of all rightists groups in Japan (1931); participated in the inaugural of the Nikkyo Zenshi Tai (Japan Joint Struggle Vanguard), a group of selected youths organized by OKAWA Shumei, from whose ranks came the majority of those later active in the Ketsumeidan, the May 15, 1932, and Shimpei-tai assassination plots, 1931; imprisoned for having sent a dagger to Finance Minister INOUE Junnosuke with the suggestion that INOUE commit suicide, 1931-1932; arrested in police round-up of rightists suspected of implication in the assassination of INOUE Junnosuke, a part of the notorious Ketsumeidan Incident, 1932; active in the Dai Nippon Seisan-to

Declassified and Approved for Release  
by the Central Intelligence Agency

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

OUT to FBI 7235

(Great Japan Production Party), an amalgamation of rightist groups under UCHIDA Ryohsei, vigorous supporter of ultra-nationalist activities, including violence; travelled to Manchuria, as representative of the Dai Nippon Seisan-to, and was in contact with KASAKI Ryomei, leading exponent of Japanese expansion in China, 1932; - upon his return to Japan, founded the Dokuritsu Seinansha (Independent Youths Society), based upon KASAKI's principles, with a few other young ultra-nationalists, including TOYAMA Hideo; imprisoned for plotting to assassinate the Genro (elder statesmen, advisers to the Emperor), October 1932-April 1937; active in the Nippon Juku (Japan Institute), composed of disciples of IMAIZUMI Tetsuke, and the Dai Ajia Kensetsu-kai (Great Asia Establishment Society), founded by KASAKI Ryomei, 1937; travelled to North China as an "inspection agent" of the Foreign Office's information bureau, 1937; organized the Taishi Mondai Kai-ketsu Kokumin Domei (China Problems Settlement National League), which had semi-official backing from the Foreign Office, 1937; founded the Nigatsu-kai (February Society), successor to his Taishi Kokumin Domei, which was concerned with national politics as well as Japanese expansion in China, 1938; travelled to Central China, North China, and Inner Mongolia with the backing of the Foreign Office and his rightist organizations, 1938-1939; organized the Saisen Kantetsu Domei (Holy War Execution League), which propagandized Japanese expansionist activities in China, and the Seinan Nippon Undo (Japan Youth Movement) as a successor to his Nigatsu-kai and which emphasized the role of youth as the main force in the reconstruction of Japan, 1938-1939; sent to

China, as a non-official member of the Army General Staff, charged with guarding WANG Ching-wei on his journey from Hong Kong to Shanghai - made frequent trips back and forth between Japan and China for the Army and Foreign Office, 1939; reorganized into Seinan Nippon Undo under the name Koa Seinen Undo (Rise Asia Youth Movement) to include youths of Manchuria and China, and published the magazine Taigi (Justice), a subordinate group within the Koa Seinen Undo was called the Ajia Seinensha (Asia Youth Society), 1939; conferred with Lieut. General ISHIHARA Kanji, noted expansionist advocate, and through him met Colonel TSUJI Masanobu, then in charge of the Army's "thought" activities in Shanghai, 1940; worked with TSUJI, as an unofficial employee of the Army GHQ in China, and as a representative of ISHIHARA's Ton-Renmei (East Asia League), 1940; chief of the Far Eastern Section of SASAGAWA Ryoichi's Kokusui Taishu-to (National Essence Party) and manager of the Nipponshugi Seinen Kaigi (Japanism Youth Council), an attempted merger of nationalist groups to propagate Japanism throughout the world which was violently anti-American, 1941; a Director of the Dai Nippon Koa Domei (Great Japan Rise Asia League), an amalgamation of 61 societies concerned with Japanese activities overseas, and a leader of Hachigatsu-kai (August Society), composed of nationalist leaders, 1941; during the first years of World War II, organized and operated a purchasing agency in Shanghai for the Japanese Naval Air Forces which involved handling vast sums for the Naval Air Forces, and later for the other services - his procurement organization was officially called the Kodama Kikan (Kodama Organ), and served also as an intelligence agency of the Japanese Government, 1941-1943; unsuccessful Diet candidate

SECURITY



April 1942 elections; manager of the rightist newspaper Yamato Shimbun following the death of its proprietor, his old friend IWATA Fumio, November 1943; assigned duty by Naval Air Forces of acquiring and operating mines in Japan producing strategic metals such as tungsten and molybdenum, 1944-1945; assigned by the Navy to direct various official chores, such as repairing airfields, salvaging scrap, and electrolyzing salt, during the last months of World War II; member of Cabinet Advisory Council, Prince HIGASHIKUNI Cabinet, August 1945 (post obtained through high official connections, including General ISHIHARA); began to organize a new, "democratic-style" political party, the Nippon Kokumin-to (Japan Peoples Party), October-November 1945; interned in Sugama Prison, but not indicted, as a Class "A" war crimes suspect, January 1946-December 1948; barred from official political activities as a Class "A" purgee, December 1948 to end of Occupation.

One of the most fanatical and notorious pre-World War II ultra-nationalist political figures in Japan, the youthful KODAMA Yoshio is widely reported to be active currently in behind-the-scenes rightist movements. Capable, influential, and daring, he had long and close connections with the military and right-wing governmental figures prior to and during World War II. A man of tremendous vitality and unlimited ambitions, he was arrested and imprisoned on various occasions in prewar years for involvement in assassination plots and other fanatical rightist activities. He was also busily engaged during the 1930s in organizing and directing various ultra-nationalist, Pan-Asian societies. During World War II, he served as "procurement agent" for the military in Shanghai, and is widely rumored to have thereby amassed a fortune,

which has been cached away awaiting the time when it can be openly spent. He himself claims that any funds which he may have acquired have been largely spent in "philanthropic" enterprises. At the end of the war, he was one of the most influential backers of the then newly-organized Liberal Party, and is believed to have maintained close relations with HATOYAMA Ichiro, leader of the party until purged in April 1946, to the present time. Since his release from Sugama Prison in December 1948, rumors have connected him with a number of nationalistic movements and societies, and he is said to have enhanced his personal fortune through blackmarket speculations. At the present time, KODAMA is reported to be working in close association with such other ultra-nationalist figures as SASAGAWA Ryoichi, MIURA Giichi, Colonel TSUMI Masanobu, and FUJI Yoshio, and is said to be a key supporter of the Hatoyama faction of the Liberal Party which recently broke away from the parent organization to form a new party.